

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 ICA-11
TRSE-00 SOE-02 DOE-15 CIAE-00 COME-00 MCE-00
ACDA-12 /061 W
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R 141416Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0105

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 12291

USOECD

EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS1
TAGS: ESTC, COCOM
SUBJECT: U.S. PERFORMANCE IN COCOM

1. GERMAN DEL MADE PARTICULARLY STRONG STATEMENT AT COCOM MEETING APRIL 11 CRITICAL OF U.S. FAILURE TO IMPROVE ITS PERFORMANCE IN COCOM AS IT HAD PLEDGED TO DO AT BOTH THE 1976 EXPORT CONTROL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING AND THE 1977 CRITERIA DISCUSSIONS. HIS AUTHORITIES WERE PARTICULARLY ANNOYED, HE SAID THAT IT HAD TAKEN THE U.S. OVER FOUR MONTHS TO POSE ONLY ONE SIMPLE OBVIOUS QUESTION REGARDING THEIR REQUEST (77) 862 INVOLVING THE EXPORT OF A PANORAMIC ADAPTER TO HUNGARY, EQUIPMENT WHICH THE COMMITTEE HAD PREVIOUSLY APPROVED FOR EXPORT. BECAUSE OF THE SERIOUS NATURE OF THIS STATEMENT, WHICH THE GERMAN DEL ADMITTED WAS THE STRONGEST HE HAD MADE DURING HIS FOURTEEN YEAR TENURE AT COCOM, USDEL REPRODUCES THE RECORD OF HIS REMARKS BELOW:

"THE GERMAN DELEGATE, REFERRING TO HIS DELEGATION'S
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REQUEST IN COCOM DOC (77) 862, POINTED OUT THAT THIS MATTER HAD BEEN SUBMITTED ON THE 25TH NOVEMBER, 1977 AND THAT THE PREVIOUS DAY, I.E. UELL OVER FOUR MONTHS LATER, THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION HAD PUT A QUESTION SO SIMPLE THAT IT OUGHT TO HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE TO RAISE IT IMMEDIATELY UPON PRELIMINARY STUDY OF THE CASE. WHILE THE QUESTION ITSELF (RECORDED IN COCOM DOC (77)

862.9), HOWEVER TRIVIAL, WAS LEGITIMATE, THE TIME
TAKEN TO RAISE IT WAS NOT, AND BETOKENED EITHER A
FLAGRANT DISREGARD FOR THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE OR UTTER CARELESSNESS ON THE PART OF THE
OFFICIALS DEALING WITH THE MATTER, OR BOTH. THE DEL-
EGATE STATED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES COULD NOT BUT FEEL
THAT THE UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES WERE EMPLOYING
DOUBLE STANDARDS, WHENEVER THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION
SUBMITTED AN EXCEPTIONS REQUEST, ALL THE OTHER DEL-
EGATIONS DID THEIR UTMOST - TELEPHONING, CABLING,
URGING THEIR AUTHORITIES TO TAKE ACTION - AND OBTAIN
SATISFACTORY AND SPEEDY RESULTS. WHILE NO DOUBT THE
UNITED STATES DELEGATION LIKEWISE URGED THEIR AUTHOR-
ITIES TO ACTION ON REQUESTS PRESENTED BY OTHER DELE-
GATIONS THE RESULT WAS BY NO MEANS AS SUCCESSFUL SINCE
THE UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES' SOLE RESPONSE WAS IN
MOST CASES THAT THEY WERE ACTIVELY STUDYING THE MATTER
OR INTER-AGENCY DISCUSSIONS WERE INVOLVED SO THAT
CASES NOT INFREQUENTLY REMAINED PENDING FOR WEEKS, EVEN
MONTHS, WITHOUT ANY INDICATION BEING GIVEN AS TO WHAT
WAS HOLDING UP THE REACHING OF A DECISION. IN THE
PRESENT CASE, AFTER ALMOST FIVE MONTHS, THE UNITED
STATES AUTHORITIES, FAR FROM REACHING A FINAL DECISION
ON THE PROPOSED EXPORT, WERE ONLY NOW RAISING QUESTIONS

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WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN RAISED AT THE OUTSET. THE DELEGATE CONSIDERED THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS INTOLERABLE AND SERIOUSLY WONDERED WHETHER HE SHOULD NOT ADVISE HIS AUTHORITIES TO EMPLOY, WHEN EXAMINING EXCEPTIONS REQUESTS SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION, THE TIME-CONSUMING TACTICS EMPLOYED BY THE UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES WHEN DEALING WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS' EXCEPTIONS REQUESTS. THE DELEGATE REGRETTED HAVING HAD TO MAKE THIS STATEMENT BUT REGRETTED EVEN MORE THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH HAD MADE IT NECESSARY."

2.UK DEL, NOTING THE CONTINUING US DELAY ON THE BRITISH REQUEST TO EXPORT ICS TO HUNGARY (COCOM DOC (77) 916) ASSOCIATED HIMSELF FULLY WITH GERMAN DELS REMARKS. HE NOTED THAT HIS DELEGATION HAD ALREADY IN COCOM DOC PROC (78) 4 DRAWN ATTENTION TO THIS PROBLEM AND TO THE UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES EARLIER PROMISE TO REMEDY THE SITUATION. UNLIKE THE GERMAN CASE, HE SAID, HIS CASE HAD BEEN PENDING FOR OVER FOUR MONTHS AND HAD NOT YET EVEN PRODUCED A SIMPLE QUESTION.

3.COMMENT: USDEL FORSEES OTHER DELEGATIONS USING APRIL 25 MEETING AS YET ANOTHER OCCASSION TO EMPHASIZE CONFIDENTIAL

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THEIR CONTINUING DISSATISFACTION WITH US COCOM PERFORMANCE.
SALZMAN

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Message Attributes

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